



MAURA HEALEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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(617) 727-2200  
[www.mass.gov/ago](http://www.mass.gov/ago)

May 16, 2019

**VIA E-MAIL ONLY**

Anonymous  
[72546-59889515@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:72546-59889515@requests.muckrock.com)

**Re: Your Public Records Request**

Dear Requestor:

I write in response to your public records request made pursuant to the Massachusetts public records law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and received on May 2, 2019.<sup>1</sup> In a May 1 email to the Records Access Officer mailbox, you requested copies of records from the Office of the Attorney General (AGO), specifically:

1. Electronic copies, via email, of all email, calendar invites, text/SMS/MMS/instant messages, or memos sent, written, or received between January 1, 2017 and 2019-04-30 (inclusive), to or from (1) any employee or officer and (2) any of the following:
  - A. [43 individuals ranging from Donald Trump to Johnny DeStefano];
  - B. [A]ny email addresses ending in [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) or [eop.gov](http://eop.gov) not included above;
  - C. [A]ny employee of the Executive Office of the President of the United States, the White House Office, or the Office of Management and Budget not included above; and
  - D. [A]ny employee or officer of the US Office of the Attorney General, US Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and the Special Counsel's Office not included above.
2. Electronic copies, via email, of all agreements either executed OR in effect at any time from January 1, 2017 to 2019-04-30 (inclusive) with any of the following [50 federal agencies, bureaus, departments, and organizations].

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<sup>1</sup> See Supervisor of Records Regulations at 950 CMR 32.03(3). See also 950 CMR 32.02 and 950 CMR 32.06(2)(e).



The public records law requires that a request reasonably describes the public records being sought. See M.G.L. c. 66 § 10(a)(i). In its current form, Parts 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and Part Two (2) of your request do not reasonably describe the records that you seek. In Parts 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, you ask us to search our records for communications of various kinds sent to or from a list of individuals, domain names, and federal offices. As currently constructed, your request would require us to conduct a complete search of all emails, calendar invites, and memos sent to or from current and former employees of this Office for over two years without any other parameters. You do not provide any specific email addresses to search for and you did not offer a list of specific employees within the AGO to search for responsive records. Consequently, these parts of your request do not provide enough focused information upon which to conduct a reasonable search for records that are responsive.

As to Part Two (2) of your request, please be advised that our Office has no organized log or database where agreements with federal agencies, bureaus, and departments are cataloged. As such, for our Office to conduct a thorough search for agreements with fifty (50) entities having no supplemental information on what division or bureau may have entered into these agreements or when they were signed, we would have to complete an onerous and impractical inquiry into every AGO division's work and interactions with all fifty (50) of these entities. As with Parts 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, this part of your request does not provide us with any parameters that delineate the type of records that you are looking for. Consequently, it does not give us enough focused information upon which to base a reasonable search.

As you may know, the public records law permits a custodian of public records to charge requesters for certain costs associated with responding to public records requests, including fees to search for the requested records. See M.G.L. c. 66 § 10(a)(iii); M.G.L. c. 66 § 10(d)(ii). Because of the breadth of your request as explained above, the time to search all AGO electronic and paper records is incalculable and, as a result, a good faith cost estimate cannot be assessed at this time. However, an appropriate cost estimate for your full request can be determined if you provide our Office with additional parameters and guidance concerning your request.

Therefore, we cannot process your request as written any further. Should you decide to modify your request, we ask that you please do so in a way that provides us with as much information as possible concerning the records you seek, and includes additional and/or narrowed search parameters, such as a specific categories of records, precise email addresses, and any AGO staff/areas of the Office that might be the custodians of such records.

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As a helpful resource, the AGO website offers general guidance on how to submit a request and a listing of the categories of records that may be in our custody.<sup>2</sup> You may also contact the Records Access Officer by phone at (617) 963-2900 with additional questions.

You have the right to appeal this response to the Supervisor of Records pursuant to M.G.L. c. 66, § 10A(a), and to seek judicial review of an unfavorable decision by commencing a civil action in the superior court under M.G.L. c. 66, § 10A(c).

Very truly yours,



Lorraine A.G. Tarrow  
Assistant Attorney General & Records Access Officer  
General Counsel's Office

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/guidance-for-making-a-public-records-request>